

CANTERBURY PARK

1100 Canterbury Road Shakopee, MN 55379

Mister Marti Gras Wins \$125,000 Mystic Lake Mile

Awesome Flower wins stretch battle to capture \$100,000 Lady Canterbury Stakes

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Shakopee, MN -- Mister Marti Gras won the inaugural \$125,000 Mystic Lake Mile for owner Robert Lothenbach of Eden Prairie, MN Saturday at Canterbury Park. Awesome Flower was victorious in the \$100,000 Lady Canterbury Stakes with rider Chris Landeros aboard. Both stakes were scheduled to be run at one mile on the turf course but a storm that dumped 4 1/4 inches of rain in the Shakopee area during a three hour period left the grass course soaked. Both races were run on a fast main track at one mile.

Mister Marti Gras is trained by Chris Block and was ridden by Francisco Torres. Torres kept Mister Marti Gras on the rail, waiting behind four horses until the top of the stretch when he swung three wide and accelerated to victory by ¾ of a length in 1:38.00. Stachys was second and pace setter Wild Jacob finished third.

Canterbury and the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, owners and operators of Mystic Lake Casino, entered into a purse enhancement agreement that will add \$75 million to the purse structure over the 10-year terms of the deal. One of the results of the agreement is larger stakes purses like the \$125,000 offered in the Mystic Lake Mile as well as larger overnight purses.

"I like what Canterbury has done with the purses," Lothenbach said. "It makes it possible to ship here to race."

Lothenbach had stabled horses at Canterbury years ago but has been racing in other states with more lucrative purses. "I

am shipping four to six horses here Monday to spend the summer," Lothenbach said.

Mister Marti Gras paid \$3.20 to win.

Lady Canterbury winner Awesome Flower is owned by Kenneth and Sarah Ramsey and is trained by Michael Maker. She

paid \$13.20 to win. Bryan's Jewel was second and Kune Kune was third.

Landeros and Awesome Flower were off the pace early, gradually moving into contention. "I took my time getting up

there," Landeros said. The pair engaged Bryan's Jewel in the stretch, inching away to win by one-half length in 1:37.54.

"I pressed the button and it was time to go," Landeros said. "This filly had a lot of heart."

Also on the Canterbury program was the \$54,100 Canterbury Park Quarter Horse Derby. Trainer Stacy Charette-Hill's

horses finished first, second and third with Hr Ebony Princess winning by a neck, Hr Money Maker finishing second and

First Prize Wagon third. Ry Eikleberry rode the winner for Bobby and Vickie Hammer. Final time for the 400 yard race

was 19.832 seconds. Hr Ebony Princess paid \$13.40 to win.

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